

DISCOVERY

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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BROOKS
CITY-BASE
A Technology and Business Center

BDA establishes foundation to promote research partnerships

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks Development Authority recently formed a nonprofit foundation designed to foster research partnerships to enhance Air Force and civilian technology development that ultimately may benefit aerospace medicine, homeland security and small business growth.

"It's another vehicle to encourage research opportunities and technology transfer at Brooks City-Base that will provide support to small business," said Dr. Janet Black, a BDA board member who will also serve on the newly formed foundation board.

Black, who is the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service's Program Development Coordinator for South Texas, said the foundation gives the BDA flexibility in attracting research grants that could fund technology partnerships.

"There's a lot of research potential (here) with the Air Force. This foundation will facilitate and encourage funds to be funneled (here) for (research) development," Black said.

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AFRL first sergeant comes home

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Gonzales makes sports history

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

In dedication

A gloomy Sept. 11 morning found San Antonio residents, military members and city and church officials remembering the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by par-

ticipating in the official dedication of the San Antonio 9/11 Memorial. The memorial was built on top of a hill on Highway 90 near Lackland Air Force Base on property owned by the New Life Christian Center.

San Antonio dedicates 9/11 memorial landmark

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The San Antonio military community joined city and church officials Thursday in dedicating a memorial landmark near Lackland Air Force Base that, in perpetuity, honors victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks as well as people who have died as a result of worldwide terrorism.

Officially christened the San Antonio 9/11 Memorial, it was built in sight of Wilford Hall Medical Center on top of a hill on Highway 90 West on property owned by the New Life Christian Center.

"We built this monument not only as a gift to San Antonio, but to our nation and the world to memorialize the individuals who were victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack," said Dr. LaSalle Vaughn, New Life Christian Center pastor. His church's community development arm, the nonprofit International Community Development Corporation, raised nearly \$500,000 to build the memorial.

San Antonio's newest landmark, originally called the International Peace Memorial, features a 36-foot tall

“We built this memorial not only as a gift to San Antonio but to our nation and the world to memorialize those individuals who were victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack. **”**

LaSalle Vaughn
New Life Christian Center pastor

stainless steel pillar with an eternal flame. The 10,000-square-foot memorial also features a Wall of Peace connected to ascending and descending walls of Texas limestone, surrounded by fountains and a reflecting pool. The 3,067 people who died in the Sept. 11 attacks have their names inscribed in a special section of the memorial. Eventually, the names of past and future victims of terrorism will be added to the memorial, explained Peter Onofre, an ICDC board director.

An added feature, not in the original design, is a flag pole that will be used to support the new Department of Homeland Security's national color-coded threat warning system.

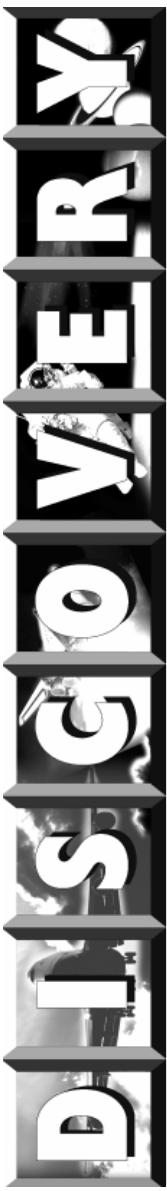
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Photo by Rudy Purificato

This San Antonio 9/11 Memorial plaque contains some of the names of the 3,067 victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Under the U.S. flag will be a colored flag of the Homeland Security Advisory System. We plan to change the flag daily, depending on the threat level," Onofre said, noting, "We're doing this as a community service to let everyone know the state of alert as a reminder that we are under a constant threat."

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Commentary



Leaders issue a Patriot Day message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The following is a Patriot Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

"The second anniversary of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, provides us all an opportunity to remember those murdered in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania, as well as those patriots who have sacrificed their lives in the war on terror."

"Through tragedy, our nation renewed its unending resolve to fight terrorism, to defend our way of life and to give hope to others suffering under repressive regimes that support terror. Patriot Day reaffirms the airman's obligation to fight for what's right — obliterating terrorism on every front to ensure a safe tomorrow for future generations of Americans and freedom-loving people around the world."

"You — America's finest men and women who comprise our Air Force — are doing absolutely remarkable work around the globe. From our own skies to the front lines

in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the world, our superior Total Force of active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian airmen continues to respond brilliantly as the world's greatest air and space force."

Rest assured, you're making it more difficult every day for terrorists to have their way.

"On this Patriot Day, let's remember those who are deployed in harm's way. Just as important, let's renew our commitment to the families of those who are deployed. The unwavering commitment to their loved ones far from home is phenomenal; the cause for which their loved ones serve is noble and just."

"As we've seen, winning the war on terrorism is a long and deliberate journey — we're confident you are up to the task. Be patient and stay the course — we will continue to face challenges and overcome obstacles as we win the war on terrorism. Thanks for all you do for America and our Air Force."

"May God bless you, and may God bless America."

"On this Patriot Day, let's remember those who are deployed in harm's way."

Dr. James Roche and Gen. John Jumper

A happy birthday message from the top

By Dr. James Roche
Secretary of the Air Force
and
Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

In 56 years, the U.S. Air Force has earned its wings as the world's greatest air and space force. Our airmen and our technology are the best our nation have to offer, an achievement that flows from the contributions of every airman — whether active, guard, reserve, civilian or retired.

On Sept. 18, the anniversary of our creation, remember that through your integrity, selfless service and incomparable excellence, Americans find strength and confidence in the Air Force's ability to answer our nation's call, no matter when or where we're needed.

We celebrate the Air Force's birthday as we continue to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Your tire-

less commitment, agility and professionalism are the foundation for integrating air and space power into a successful joint and coalition combat operation — one that has already crushed a tyrannical regime and is now helping to blaze the trail of freedom for millions in Iraq.

Yet, as we celebrate, we recognize that this success is not without costs. We appreciate you and your families' extraordinary sacrifices. Let's take this special occasion to remember the airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the security of America and the opportunity of freedom for those who have never before tasted liberty.

The Air Force's legacy has soared in its short history and greater opportunities are on the horizon — opportunities you'll meet with the same courage, commitment and confidence that define our first 56 years.

America is proud of our Air Force, and Americans are proud of you. Happy Birthday!



Chapel ceremony remembers 9/11 victims, heroes

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

On a dark, drizzly, unpleasant morning about 50 Brooks personnel gathered in the base chapel to commemorate a tragic day in American history, and its aftermath. Two years later.

The ceremony was subdued. It didn't have a parade. No one played the bagpipes. Instead, attendees watched slide shows and prayed, reflecting upon the victims who died that day going to work, as most Americans do each morning. They reflected upon heroes who lost their lives saving others, rushing toward the flames instead of away. They reflected upon the heroes killed in that Pennsylvania field who, realizing their lives lost, decided to be America's first defense against terror and, in the process, may have saved our government and our country. Finally, they reflected upon those still separated from their loved ones, defending America and its ideals today. Two years later.

"I wondered last year, as well as this year, about us having a remembrance/memorial service and how many years into the future that we will continue to do this," said Brooks Chaplain Gary Coburn. "The way I figure it is people will continue to remember and reflect on what happened regardless if we have something here at the chapel or not. So why not go ahead and provide a service where we can collectively come together and heal."

The chapel staff did a careful job interweaving prayer, song and visual images to create an emotional experience drawing on the charged feelings of the day, not provoked sentiment.

"The goal was to meet the human need that people have. We have to remember and com-



Courtesy photo

People across the nation took time to remember the victims, the heroes, the tragedy that shook the United States when terrorists launched a horrifying attack on America Sept. 11, two years ago. A moment of silence was observed at 7:46 a.m. in honor of the victims who died in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and aboard a downed airliner in a Pennsylvania field.

memorate significant days and significant events in our lives," said Chaplain Nelson Arroyo. "Sept. 11 was obviously a very significant day in American history...The main significance is that we who are in the military are the ones who are entrusted with defending freedom. We have a special role to play in the fight against terrorism."

Despite the tension, fear and anger experienced by Americans after the attack, the ceremony did not call for vengeance or violence, only justice.

"I was remembering that there are those still responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks who have not been captured, apprehended, who are not standing trial for their actions," Arroyo said. "I hope that will happen, but if it doesn't happen in this lifetime for some reason we know there is a just God who will reward according to our actions."

When the service ended, the sky, still clouded over but brightened by the risen sun, paid a fitting tribute to Patriots Day and Military City U.S.A. Though memories are bleak and the path to peace long and arduous, Americans can take comfort and strength from the light of their faith and the dedication of their country's finest citizens. Two years later.

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil

NPR's 'Talk of the Nation Science Friday' airs live from Brooks City-Base

Talk of the Nation Science Friday, a nationally broadcast weekly science talk show airs live from Brooks from 1 to 3 p.m., Sept. 19. The program is heard on hundreds of public radio stations throughout the country as well as the Armed Forces Network in Europe.

The broadcast from the Bldg. 180 auditorium is free and open to the public. Seats are available for Brooks personnel, however you must make a reservation by calling 614-8977.

Science Friday is broadcast live over public radio stations nationwide from 2 to 4 p.m. Eastern time as part of National Public Radio's 'Talk of the Nation' programming.

Each week, the program focuses on science topics in the news and tries to bring an educated, balanced discussion to bear on the scientific issues at hand. Panels of expert guests join Science Friday's host, Ira Flatow, a veteran science journalist, to discuss science — and to take questions from listeners during the call-in portion of the program.

During the first hour, Flatow will discuss wind power. In the second hour, the topic is the efforts to protect and preserve San Antonio's missions.

Local support for Science Friday's visit to San Antonio is provided by the San Antonio Technology Acceleration Initiative Network, the University of Texas at San Antonio College of Engineering and DPT Laboratories.

Texas Public Radio is a San Antonio-based non-profit organization licensed to operate three radio stations in the San Antonio area: KSTX 89.1 FM, a National Public Radio affiliate station programming news and information 24 hours a day; KPAC 88.3 FM, which airs classical music programming 24 hours a day; and KTXI 90.1 FM in Ingram, Texas, which brings a combination of NPR news and classical music to the Texas Hill Country.



Vehicle accidents claim two AFMC lives during 101 Critical Days

By Tech Sgt. Carl Norman

AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — An Air Force Materiel Command technical sergeant and his wife were killed and an airman was medically retired from the Air Force via vehicle accidents during this year's 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign.

The technical sergeant, assigned to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and his wife were killed when their motorcycle collided with a truck while the couple was on leave. The wife died at the scene and the sergeant died a few days afterward, according to John Sheehan, AFMC ground safety chief.

In addition to the two fatalities, Air Force officials medically retired a Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., airman first class due to injuries he received in a July 23 automobile accident that left him incapable of returning to active-duty.

The Hill technical sergeant is one of 35 Air Force members from around the globe killed during this year's 101 Critical Days campaign. That number is five higher than the 2002 tally and nearly doubles the 19 lives lost during the 2001 campaign.

"One is too many and our hearts go out to all the families who lost loved ones," Sheehan said during an interview Sept. 8. But he said the reality is, "The Air Force, by regulation, requires people to wear a helmet and other protective equipment when riding a motorcycle and a seatbelt when driving a car; and despite the safety education, some continue to ignore that."

Sheehan said neither the Hill technical sergeant, nor his wife, were wearing a helmet when they collided with the truck.

"I don't know if it would have made a difference or not in that particular case, but not wearing one did not improve their chances of surviving," he said.

For Sheehan, it's all a matter of people taking personal responsibility.

"People have to want to do the right thing," he said. "If they ignore the risks and make wrong decisions, they'll continue paying the ultimate price for it."

"AFIs, articles in newspapers and commanders comments will only go so far. We need personal involvement from immediate supervisors and coworkers. We need the active commitment from the entire Air Force family to eliminate these preventable deaths."

Looking more to the preventive side of things, Sheehan said Air Force safety officials are taking a closer look at motorcycle safety around the service due to nearly half of this year's 35 Air Force fatalities coming from the two-wheeled motor vehicles. In fact, Air Force safety officials, along with civilian safety experts and a group of motorcycle riders from various areas, will convene at Kirtland the week of Sept. 22 for a motorcycle safety summit.

"We've got to go farther than we've gone in the past," Sheehan said. "We've written the AFIs and talked about protective gear and why it's necessary. What we haven't done is figure out how to reach people to change their behavior."

"We have all the rules and regulations we need; what we need now is to influence the way people think. They need to realize that they don't have to go 150 mph on a motorcycle or in a car just because the vehicle will go that fast."

Now that the 101 Critical Days of Summer have come and gone, Sheehan encourages everyone to keep safety a top priority because it's a year round concern. Changing seasons, upcoming winter driving in many areas of the country, darkness falling earlier and school being back in session are just a few items people should be watching.

"Everyone, including supervisors and managers, needs to continue strong interaction with their co-workers and encourage each other to emphasize safety throughout the entire year," Sheehan said. "Just because the 101 Critical Days of Summer has ended doesn't mean people need to forget about safety and exercising personal responsibility for their actions and how they will impact themselves and others."

For more information, contact Brooks Safety Office at 536-2111.

BRAC e-mail story deemed a hoax

By Tech Sgt. David A. Jablonski

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — An e-mail hoax has been circulating through inboxes. The e-mail contains a spoofed Air Force Print News story about proposed base realignment and closure actions allegedly affecting all services.

Air Force public affairs officials were alerted to the hoax by a military officers' association in California. The e-mail takes a legitimate Air Force Print News story titled "Air Force releases 2004 realignments," published July 23, and adds a fake list of DoD installations for "closure or realignment."

Officials immediately dismissed the e-mail as a hoax, citing that the ongoing BRAC process is nowhere near complete.

They have not made any assessments, decisions or recommendations for closures and realignments to the BRAC Commission, according to Nelson Gibbs, the assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics.

As part of the budget justification, defense officials must submit a number of reports and certifications to justify the need for the BRAC 2005 round, Gibbs said.

"This will occur in the February 2004 time frame," Gibbs said. "As such, recommendations (now) would be premature and not in accordance with the requirements of the BRAC law."

The law establishes procedures that must be followed step by step to develop information, studies, plans and reports needed for such recommendations, he said.

"While we have done much, we are still in the early stages of the formal BRAC process," Gibbs said.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act prescribes a sequential process officials must follow before they can legally make recommendations for potential closures and realignments of military installations.

Through this process, each base will be treated fairly and equally, according to Gibbs.



Challenger Learning Center wins two national awards

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

The Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio, located at Brooks, recently won two awards during the Challenger Center for Space Science Education National Conference.

The CLC SA received the awards for Most Students Flown and Most Missions Flown in the Stand Alone category. The accolades were the first for the center, which is now in its fourth school year.

The center flew 11,105 students on 395 missions during the 2002-2003 school year. The Stand Alone denotes the center is not affiliated with a school district, university or museum and the category encompassed 11 national Challenger centers.

"(Winning) is a real boost in energy," said Jenny Christian, and education flight director at the CLC SA. "We're not just localized to one region of San Antonio, it's an outreach program. We encourage students from all over South Central Texas to come."

Christian, Lead Flight Director Bill Merrill and Brooks Aerospace Foundation President Herb Klein accepted the awards during the August conference in Kansas City, Mo. Dr. June Scobee Rodgers, wife of Dick Scobee, an astronaut killed in the Challenger explosion in 1986, presented the certificates.

"It was a very pleasant surprise," Klein said.

The Brooks Aerospace Foundation operates the CLC SA and raised \$1.2 million from local businesses to renovate the current facility.



Air Force photo

This local student is one of 11,105 students flown on 395 missions during the 2002-2003 school year at the Challenger Learning Center at Brooks.

Awards were also given out for most public participants flown and most teachers trained. Overall, 46 centers competed in four categories. Though centers in other categories flew more students overall, those centers have two simulators, while Brooks has one.

If the number of students flown in centers with two simulators are divided in half, the CLC SA flew more students per simulator than centers in any category. "We did more than anybody else," Klein said. "(The awards) validated the fact that we're doing the right thing and we're doing as well as other centers and maybe a little better."

The CLC SA generally runs two missions a day, Monday through Friday. Saturday sessions and a third weekday mission are added as necessary. During October 2003, the center plans to run three missions per day all month, resulting in a total of 51 missions. "We progressively do more each year," Christian said.

The CLC SA caters to public middle schools in the South Texas area, but also works with private schools and home school groups. Superintendents from each San Antonio school district wrote letters of endorsement before the center's construction saying they would utilize the facility if it were built.

In total last school year, centers around the country flew 251,132 students on 10,478 missions.

Foundation

Continued from Page 1

"The goal is eventually for Brooks City-Base partners to produce products that will benefit the Air Force and public at large," she added.

The model for this venture has its roots in Air Force research history. During the early 1960s, Brooks scientists helped evaluate an early space food product that eventually became a huge commercial success.

"We ran several tests on TANG, an orange juice replacement," recalls retired Air Force chemist Clarence Theis.

Black referred to TANG's development here as the types of products, created through joint Air Force-civilian partnerships, that the foundation hopes to encourage by securing additional research money.

Through the years, many Air Force technology transfer research projects had been further developed by small businesses into commercial products.

The early success of Air Force space food research here eventually benefited the general public, specifically senior citizens. NASA's shelf-stable space foods, many of which were evaluated and developed at Brooks, were later used in the "Meals for the Elderly" Texas feeding program that was established in 1976.

Black said the foundation will seek to capitalize on the considerable "brain power" that exists at Brooks in fostering joint ventures linking Air Force scientific expertise with ideas generated by academia and industry.

The foundation, chaired by BDA board member Dick Grant, includes the chairs of three BDA committees: Black, George Pedraza and Dr. Manuel Berriozabal, the latter a pro-



Photo by Rudy Purificato

This Challenger Learning Center display at Brooks showcases a past innovative product developed here, which serves as a model for the new Brooks Development Authority Foundation plan to produce new products through joint research.

fessor of mathematics for the University of Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program.

Other foundation members include BDA chairman and former San Antonio Mayor Howard Peak, Brooks City-Base director Tom Rumora and Randy Goldsmith, executive director of the San Antonio Technology Acceleration Initiative, commonly called SATAI.

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Brooks Thrift Shop expands store, business

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

The Brooks Thrift Shop expanded by 50 percent recently, allowing the store to accept all donations of large items like furniture and televisions. Previously, the Thrift Shop could only accept those items on a space-available basis.

"We've increased tremendously," said Avis Bergh, the store manager. "We're very pleased."

The Thrift Shop, run by the Brooks Spouses Club, is in Bldg. 641 in front of the BXMarket and took over the extra space in that building adjacent to the store. The BSC wanted to increase the size for a while before the growth took place.

"We asked, begged, prayed," said Kathryn Godfrey, a volunteer at the Thrift Shop.

The effort paid off when Frank Ogo of Grubb and Ellis Management Services and Kathe Masch from the Brooks City-Base Office Civil Engineering staff helped them secure the extra room and transform the store. The Youth Center also pitched in volunteer hours, removing wire to make space for more donated and consigned items.

"We just wanted to say how appreciative we are of the assistance and support we received from CE and GEMS," said Cynthia Bowley, another volunteer and the store's cashier.

The Thrift Shop take both donated and consigned items, items that

people give to the Thrift Shop to sell instead of selling it at a garage sale. The thrift shop gets a 20 percent take of the sale. The original owner sets the price. All Thrift Shop proceeds go to the BSC Philanthropy Fund which donates to organizations like Fisher House, Special Olympics, C.A.M.P., the Brooks Youth Center, the Brooks Teen Center and more.

"It's the only money the club gets for all the charities they want to give to," Bergh said.

Between June 2002 and May 2003 the Thrift Shop made a net profit of around \$10,000.

The store sells an array of items like clothing, household goods, decorations, tables, figurines and even military uniforms. Air Force personnel can often purchase good-quality uniforms at a reduced price.

"We're definitely affordable shopping," Bowley said.

In the past, the Thrift Shop opened after normal hours for airman in financial trouble to obtain donated items at no cost. Lately, the volunteers said no one has needed that service. However, the Thrift Shop on Brooks fills a community need, especially since the base has no Airman's Attic.

"It's helping people," Bergh said. "It gives a lot of people the opportunity to buy at a more reasonable price."

Eight volunteers run the Thrift Shop, pricing, sorting and arranging the items they take in. The women do much of their work during hours when the store is closed to the public.

"We're not just open from 9-2, it's a lot more hours," Bergh said. "(The volunteers) are willing to work whenever I call."

Thrift Shop hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m. every Thursday. Consignment hours are 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. every Thursday except the last one in the month.

The shop has a donation box outside the building.

Brooks fourth annual Retiree Appreciation Day events honor retirees, remember POW/MIA

Brook's Fourth Annual Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 19 at Hangar 9.

Retiree Appreciation Day is an opportunity to honor retired military members in the surrounding area for their dedication and significant contributions to the country.

In addition to recognizing their patriotism, the event is intended as a reminder of the Brooks mission and the services the base has available to the local retiree community.

As in past years, the event is scheduled in conjunction with National POW/MIA Remembrance Day. This commemoration begins with the laying of a wreath at the base flagpole at reveille and continues with a formal table ceremony, along with the Retiree Appreciation Day activities, in Hanger 9 at 8:50 a.m.

Brooks personnel are encouraged to sign up to stand a short vigil at the base flag pole in honor of POW/MIA. Visit the Web site at: <https://hswya2.brooks.af.mil/common/mil-gov/SilentVigil/SignUp.asp>. Time slots are

available throughout the day.

Representatives from various organizations, including TRICARE, Army and Air Force Exchange Service BX Market, Retired Officer Association, Retired Enlisted Association, Texas Veterans Commission, Purple Heart Association, American Heart and Diabetes Associations, American Cancer Society, Self Help for the Hard of Hearing, Wilford Hall Audiology Clinic, Brooks Military Personnel Flight, Family Support Center and Medical Clinic, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, American Association of Retired Persons driver safety and more will answer questions and provide information about available services.

As an added event, Adrian Cronauer, portrayed by Robin Williams in the film "Good Morning, Vietnam," will speak at the Brooks Club at 1:30 p.m.

A retreat ceremony at the base flagpole and a missing man flyby are planned to conclude the event.

Contact retired Chief Master Sgt. Fred Dickinson at 536-2116 for additional details.

Memorial

Continued from Page 1

Onofre said the memorial dedication concludes phase one of an on-going project that was inaugurated on the first anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Originally conceived in 1998 by Vaughn, the memorial forms the cornerstone of a park complex.

"The next phase involves building an education center adjacent to the memorial where we plan to have educational programs about terrorism,"

Onofre said.

Among community leaders who participated in the memorial dedication ceremony as keynote speakers were San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, Texas Railroad Commissioner Victor Carillo and Maj. Gen. Paul Lebras, commander of Air Intelligence Agency at Lackland AFB.



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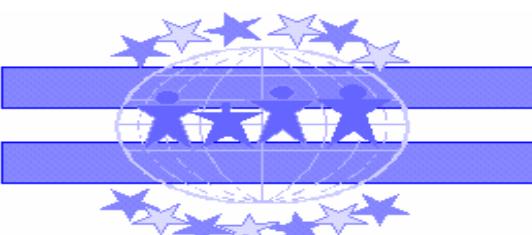
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If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

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311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-4100
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BXMarket.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444
for information or to register

College financial planning— 529 plan

Sept. 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—
The section 529 college financial plan provides for a qualified tuition program that offers special benefits for those who wish to fund a child's college education. One of two types of plans under this program is the Pre-paid Education Services Account. This account purchases tuition credits or certificates at today's current tuition rates for use in the future and can be state sponsored or sponsored by a private institution. The other type of plan is the Education Savings Account where contributions are established for meeting higher education expenses and is only state sponsored. Come to class and learn all the details to start funding your child's education

Blended families

Sept. 22 - Oct. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

If you're a stepparent, you know how challenging and confusing a stepfamily life can be. Now, Blended Families helps your stepfamily reap the rich benefits living can offer. Through readings, discussions and activities, you'll develop effective communication skills, learn to resolve conflicts, recognize unrealistic expectations and more.

Bundles for Babies— expectant parent session

Sept. 25, 8 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 537—

Active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or who are expecting a child should attend this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Obtain information about budgeting, basic baby care, development, effective parenting, car seat regulations, and more.

Separation and retirement

Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered include pre-separation, Veterans benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, Tricare, and financial planning. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

VA benefits assistance hours

Wednesdays, alternate Fridays, 9-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

The on-site VA representative at Brooks now has expanded hours to better accommodate base personnel. Schedule an appointment to receive claims assistance, screen medical records or have a one-on-one consultation.



Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The 2003 to 2004 Combined Federal Campaign begins Sept. 22 at Brooks. This year, the event kicks off Sept. 18 by joining the Commanders Thursday morning Fitness Club for a 5k run/walk at 6:30 a.m. at the Fitness Center. A taco breakfast follows at 7:45 a.m. at Sidney's. Col. Laura Alvarado, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, will lead the kickoff presentation, scheduled for 8 a.m. at the bleachers by the gym. Contact your unit representative or Master Sgt. Deborah Harrell at 536-2584 for kickoff tickets or additional information.

The campaign runs for six consecutive weeks through Dec. 15 for bases within the continental United States. The overseas CFC campaign will be conducted from Oct. 1 through Dec. 15.

Campaign goals are established in each geographic area by the local federal coordinating committee and will be made available.

The campaign was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace-charity campaign in the country. This annual fall fund-raising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and servicemembers to contribute to thousands of local and national non-profit organizations.

Last year, people donated \$237 million, second only to the 2001 post-Sept. 11 campaign. Contributions can be made in cash, by check or by payroll deduction.

On average, one in four federal employees or their family members will benefit from the CFC charities this year alone, according to officials. Donors may designate which charity or charities receives their money by filling out a pledge card. The CFC Web site is at www.opm.gov/cfc.

(AFPC News Service contributed to this article)



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

Welcome home

311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Tom Travis, left, is joined by Command Chief Master Sgt. Rich Hollins, far right, for a picture with Brooks personnel who have deployed in support of military operations around the world and returned home. The members were recognized here during the Brooks Air Force Ball Sept. 5. This years' theme focused on welcoming home personnel who have returned from deployments and included gift presentations and recognition for each individual. In place of a guest speaker, the Brooks' members shared their stories.



Perez family relieved Iraqi Freedom tour is over

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A sense of euphoria and relief gripped the Perez family as tightly as they embraced one another during an emotional reunion at the San Antonio International Airport Aug. 29.

Not only were they happy to have Senior Master Sgt. Maria Perez home safely from her Middle East tour, but grateful they had been spared the added turmoil associated with two family members deployed simultaneously supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It was tough, something we were not expecting so close to retirement. When you're in the military you have to expect anything," admits Jose Perez, a Desert Storm veteran who nearly joined his wife for Gulf War II.

"God is good. Everybody has to do their part. I knew my time had come to serve (there)," said Maria Perez about her first overseas deployment into a war zone during a 20-year Air Force career.

Assigned to Brooks in 2000 as the Air Force Research Laboratory's first sergeant, Perez deployed to Qatar in January 2003.

As NCOIC of base operations, she supported Special Operations Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Just before her deployment, she was comforted by news that her husband wasn't going to deploy to Iraq with his Army Reserve unit.

"They put me on stop-loss, but I was on the retirement list," said Perez's husband, who at the time was a 24-



“I'm glad to be back home safe, but I pray for the safety of our troops who are still over there.”

Senior Master Sgt. Maria Perez
AFRL first sergeant

year Army veteran serving as truckmaster for the 217th Transportation Company at Fort Sam Houston. He admits that his family care plan did not calm his concerns about leaving their 16-year-old daughter Isamarie and six-year-old son Isaac "parentless" for an undetermined amount of time. Like many reservists who are self-employed, his anxiety grew knowing that if he deployed his landscaping business would have floundered.

Nevertheless, the family had to make adjustments when Perez's wife deployed and he stayed behind after being allowed to retire. "I knew where all the fast food places in town were," joked Perez who said he missed his wife's cooking. Says she, "We have no family (living) in San Antonio. A circle of friends, a group of three families, fed them four times a week."

She also was comforted by her AFRL family at Brooks who sent her care packages and provided news from home via e-mails and phone calls.

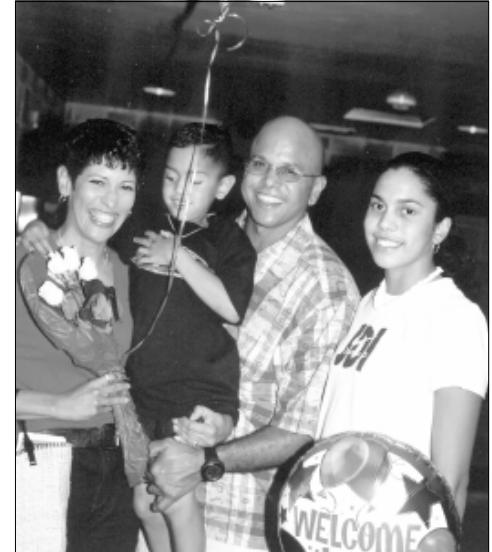
"I thank them a lot," she said of their

support.

Her colleagues in Qatar also provided support and comfort when the war against Iraq was launched. "I wasn't concerned for myself while I was over there," she said, explaining, "We were more concerned about the people close to the front lines who were in harm's way."

Perez left Qatar May 29, 2003 when she was reassigned to Special Operations Command at McDill AFB, Fla. During the more than seven months she was away from her family, the Perez clan worked around personal sacrifices.

"I had to take care of my business, the kids and help them with their homework," Jose Perez confessed. His daughter, who pitched in to help her dad with the house chores, made a special sacrifice of her own. "I quit playing tennis," said Isamarie, who for the past two years has been the state University Interscholastic League 1A singles champion. Ranked by the U.S. Tennis Association as 21st in Texas for 16 and under players, Isamarie, nevertheless, thought it important to curtail that activity to help her dad. She also managed to maintain a perfect 4.0 grade point average as a Lackland I.S.D. student. She plans to become a medical doctor someday.



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Greeting Senior Master Sgt. Maria Perez at the San Antonio International Airport upon her return from a tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom were, from left: son, Isaac, husband Jose and daughter Isamarie.

As for her mother's plans, she will take some well-deserved time off. Yet in her heart there is always time to remember our Armed Forces overseas. Perez said, "I'm glad to be back home safe, but I pray for the safety of our troops who are still over there."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



AFRL's Senior Master Sgt. Maria Perez is greeted by her 6-year-old son, Issac, upon her arrival at San Antonio International Airport Aug. 29. Perez was returning from a tour in Qatar supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Midweek mass

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is held each first Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community. Call 536-3824 for more information about Chapel services.

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series is back in full swing. Lifebuilder's is held Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Lunch is provided for a donation. The Lifebuilder's series is open to all base personnel.

Chapel schedule:

Weekdays:

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:

noon — Lifebuilders luncheon
5:30 p.m. — Protestant choir rehearsal
6:30 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass
10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church

The regular Chapel schedule resumes at the end of the summer.



NEWS briefs

Retiree council vacancy

The Texas Area Air Force retiree council is seeking retirees interested in serving a tour on the council. Council members' responsibilities include annual visits to each base in their geographic area, as well as those outlined in AirForce Instruction 36-3106, Retiree Activities Program. Nominations must be received by Nov. 7. Contact Bill Torrey at 565-4663 or by email at: william.torrey@randolph.af.mil for more information.

Blood drive

The next base-wide blood drive is scheduled for 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sept. 25 at the Brooks Chapel. The Air Force is in particular need of donations because a mass immunization drive in basic training has rendered the number one source of blood, basic trainees, ineligible for the month of September. Your donation is needed to help support our troops involved in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Help support the troops, and bring a friend. Contact Staff Sgt. Sarah Cooper at 536-3743 for more information.

IRB annual briefing

In accordance with federal regulations an annual briefing is required for all investigators conducting research on human subjects or using data from medical or personnel databases. Military personnel, civilians and contractors who desire to conduct, fund or collaborate in research at Brooks, or with any other government or civilian institution, are required to attend. Briefings are scheduled for Sept. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. and Sept. 25 from 8 to 10 a.m. Questions may be directed to Jane Marquardt at 536-4113 or Col. Harry Marden at 536-4466.

Motorcycle Riders' Club rally

The Brooks City-Base Motorcycle Riders' Club is looking for interested motorcycle enthusiasts to join. Rallies are planned for every other Sunday, weather permitting. Brooks Riders' Club rallies are open to all Brooks personnel, including active duty, reservists, DoD civilians, friends and family members. All licensed/insured motorcycle operators with street-legal motorcycle models are welcome to attend. All makes and models of motorcycles are welcome. Contact Staff Sgt. Caeser Velez at 536-8490 for more information.

Altitude subjects

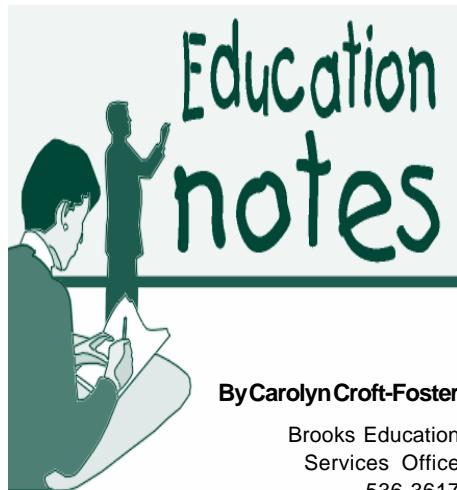
Altitude subjects are needed to help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information.

Centrifuge subjects

The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division is in need of active duty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 years and able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam. Volunteers will participate in several studies to help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month. Contact Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258 for details.

Sleep subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers for a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Katy Ramsey at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the Web site at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies."



By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

Upper Iowa University

UIU offers classes at Brooks beginning in October. The university allows students to complete degrees through its Military Campus Resident Centers, on-line, or through external degree programs. The programs offered at Brooks include Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration, Public Administration, Technology and Information Management, Human Resource Management, Human Services and Management. Information pamphlets are available in the Education Office or visit the Upper Iowa Web site at: www.uiu.edu or call 536-3617. UIU has a Partnership Advantage Agreement with Palo Alto College.

Upper Iowa also offers a "Math-Haters" course, accepted by the Community College of the Air Force as the math requirement. For more information contact Maggi.

Flex 2 On-Base Classes

Registration is underway for Fall Flex 2 classes with Palo Alto College. On-base classes include Government and Intermediate Algebra. The representative visits Brooks Tuesdays. For more information or to schedule an appointment with the ACCD representative, call 536-3617.

Embry-Riddle programs

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers Master of Aeronautical Science, Bachelor of Professional Aeronautics and Bachelor of Technical Management programs at

Randolph Air Force Base. Plans are underway for a southside teaching location in 2004. An Embry-Riddle representative will provide academic counseling sessions at the Brooks Education Office Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Interested individuals may call 659-0801 to schedule an appointment.

CLEP tests retire

The College Board is retiring paper-based CLEP tests. The following exams will be retired Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. In Jan. the following exams will retire: Social Sciences and History, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, Psychology and Principles of Management. All remaining exams will be retired March 31, 2004. Computer-based CLEP exams are available but service members cannot currently request reimbursement. The Brooks Education Services Office offers CLEP testing Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 for additional information or to reserve a seat.

DANTES/DSST fees

The fee for DANTES transcripts for military members increases to \$20 Oct. 3. The cost of DSST exams for civilians also increases to \$45. Contact the Education Center for details.

Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Air Force Virtual Education Center is online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and the Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can also order CCAF transcripts from the site. The site also features practice tests for CLEP exams. To access the AFVEC go to the following Web site and establish an account at: <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>. Call the Education Center at 536-3617 for details.

Excelsior College essay exams

Students wishing to take an Excelsior College Essay Exam in October need to request their exam by Sept. 5. Regular CLEP and DSST testing is available Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat.

Discover online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program is available for use by military members, civilians, and family members. For additional information, call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review the Web site and get started.

AWC Nonresident Seminar

Recruiting for the 2004 academic year for the Air War College Nonresident Seminar Program is underway. Seminar meetings are held weekly starting in August and run until mid-June 2004.

Applications are available at: www.maxwell.af.mil/au/awc/ns/ns-enroll.htm. Bring completed applications to Education Services in Bldg. 558 or call 536-3618 for assistance and specific details.

ACSC Nonresident Seminar

The Education and Training Center is seeking eligible major, major-selectees, GS-11s and above for the ACSC Nonresident Seminar Program. An organizational meeting is scheduled for Aug. 5 at 3 p.m. in Bldg. 558. Nonresident seminars meet each week through June 2004. The course grants Phase 1 Joint PME credit, Intermediate Service School credit, up to 27 semester hours of graduate course work, and reserve points as determined by AFPC. Seminars need eight enrollments per site.

To register, visit Education Services to complete an ACSC application, or call 536-3618 for more information.



BROOKS

SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

A NAF Outlet Auction is scheduled for Oct. 2 beginning at noon in the back lot of Bldg. 1157, formerly the Auto Skills Center. The following items will be auctioned: 1990 E350 15 passenger Ford Van; 1964 Sears 17' V hull fiberglass boat with 110 HP in-board Volvo Penta motor with trailer; 16' flat bed utility trailer.

Items can be viewed Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. to noon. Items are sold as is with no warranties and must be removed by buyer. Cash, check and credit cards are accepted for payment.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Bonanza Bingo returns to the Brooks Club and Sidney's Oct. 1. Purchase a card and win from \$2 to \$1,000. There are twelve ways to win money: Diagonal-\$2; horizontal-\$2; four corners-\$2; postage stamp-\$2; small diamond-\$5; vertical-\$10; block of nine-\$25; large diamond-\$100; crazy letter T-\$100; crazy letter L-

\$100; small picture frame — \$100; and a coverall — \$1,000.

Family Night Buffets are every Tuesday at the Brooks Club. Adults are \$4 and children, 6-10 years, are \$2. Children under 5 years eat free. An Italian Buffet is scheduled for Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 will find all guests enjoying a Western barbecue buffet. A variety of buffets served, including barbecue, Western BBQ, Oriental, Mexican, Italian, and fried chicken— so watch for your favorite foods.

Let the Brooks Club cater your next special function. We do promotion parties, retirements, weddings, birthdays and family get-togethers. Stop by the club and let us help you plan your next function.

Club members are invited to stop by the club Sept. 18 at 4 p.m. for Membership Night and to help celebrate the Air Force birthday. Super Snacks, a 30' submarine sandwich and cake and punch will be served.

'Travel the World on Us' Club membership drive

The "Travel the World on Us" Membership Campaign runs through Oct. 31 and is open to all eligible non-members, including active duty, retirees, reservists and civilians. The campaign hopes to educate eligible non-members about various activities clubs offer, inform the Air Force community about benefits of the club membership card and introduce club services to eligible Air Force non-members.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634

September is library card sign-up month. If you don't have a library card stop by the circulation desk and let the friendly library staff assist you in getting one. If you would like the staff to come to your building to sign-up personnel for library cards, please contact Joanna Hansen at 536-2634. Visiting the library can present an array of experiences through reading.

If you are planning a trip and need information on different areas, stop by

the library and check out Fodors', the latest travel books on cities and countries. It's the guide for all budgets and suggests places to stay, eat and explore on and off the beaten path.

Take a CLEP practice test before you take the exam. The tests are now available on-line. Stop by the circulation desk for more information.

Premiere Designs

Bldg. 705, 536-2120

Premiere Designs offers laser engraving, framing packages, business cards, presentation gifts, shadow boxes, flag boxes and many consignment items. Imagination is the key to a creative one-of-a-kind present. Add a special touch to photos you're having framed by letting us engrave a name or graphic on the glass. Throughout September, there is no additional charge for engraving of names, dates, or designs with the purchase of an 11" x 14" or smaller metal frame and mat. Let us show what a difference this can make to your family photos, that big catch that no one believed, your grandchild or any other special photo.

Calling all ghost story tellers. Enter the Ghost Story Contest and submit your entries by Oct. 15. Entry forms are available at Premiere Designs, or at the Base Library. You can also enter the contest through email. Contact rebecca.estrada@brooks.af.mil. The categories are 6-8 years; 9-12 years; 13-18 years and adults. The winner of each category will have their entry printed on parchment paper and framed. All other entries will be displayed in the Base Library display case through Nov. 1. "Check out" the ghosts in Bldg. 705 while you're there. There's a number of books on the subject.

Golf Course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636

Have lunch at the Golf Course snack bar on Fridays and receive a 10 percent discount on the lunch special.

Take advantage of merchandise specials at the Golf Course. Purchase \$200 or more and receive a free round of golf.

Club members can win big prizes

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

In an effort to increase membership, Air Force Clubs are holding a 2003 'Travel the World On Us' membership drive.

The drive runs through Oct. 31 and each major command will award 16 prizes, eight to established club members and eight to those who sign up during the promotion.

"The more members we get, the more support we get, the more we can do," said John Robinette, Services director at Brooks.

Both categories of members can win the same prizes. Grand prize, one per MAJCOM, is \$5,000 to use for a trip anywhere in the world. Second prize, one per MAJCOM, is \$3,000 to use for the same purpose. Third place, two per MAJCOM, awards \$1,000 travel money and fourth place, four per MAJCOM, can take a \$500 trip.

Winners can redeem prizes at local ITT offices for travel packages, custom packages, sports and entertainment tickets, airline tickets, hotels and rental vehicles. In addition to the awards, Club members get discounts throughout the Air Force, as well as a MasterCard. "It's a good way for young members to establish credit," Robinette said.

A Brooks membership also nets a 10 percent discount throughout Services, including the golf course, meals at Sidney's and personal functions around base. "A \$2,000 wedding reception could save \$200," said Club Manager Al Southerland.

Each Tuesday night, Southerland has a family buffet, featuring different cuisine each week and cartoons and movies.

Club members who PCS to Brooks should update their address and begin paying dues to the Brooks Club. Dues here are \$5 a month for enlisted and \$17 a month for officers. "We have the cheapest dues in Air Force Material Command, even with the new deck," Robinette said. "It doesn't take long to get your dues back."

To encourage members to update their addresses, Services gives a \$25 coupon book to those who make the switch.

"One of the main reasons to become a member is keeping Air Force tradition," Southerland said.

Anyone interested can pick up an application at Club 204 or Sidney's.



Ramos

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Senior Airman Shakira Ramos

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Computer Support Technician/U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

WHAT IS MY JOB?
When you call to say your computer won't let you log on, I'm the one who tells you to turn it on first.

BIRTHDAY:
Aug. 20, 1977

HOMETOWN:
Sierra Vista, Ariz.

FAMILY STATUS:
Single with one little girl

NICKNAME:
everyone calls me 'Shorty'

MOTTO:
"What goes around comes around."

INSPIRATIONS:
My daughter and my parents

HOBBIES:
Cars and bikes

PET PEEVE:
Waiting on people

BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:
whatever my daughter has to read for school that week

I JOINED THE MILITARY:
I heard they were coming out with the new blue uniform and my favorite color is blue. No, just joking. I joined for school and because I was tired of depending on my parents.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
to be done with school

ULTIMATE GOAL:
to be happy

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:
set up a college fund for my daughter.

FAVORITE MUSIC:
R&B and rap

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
so far, is making staff sergeant-
wwhoooo!!!

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
is my daughter and my model cars.



Brooks Personality PROFILE



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Airman lives life in the fast lane

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. (select) Shakira Ramos feels the need. The need for speed. In everything she does.

Ramos talks fast, moves fast and, of course, drives fast.

"Let's not talk about my tickets," she said with a big laugh. Ramos accompanies many of her words with a big laugh or at least a large grin.

Talkative and bubbly, short and spunky, Ramos can sustain a conversation with just about anyone.

"I'm more of a people person," she said.

While some make comments about how much she likes to talk, Ramos mentioned she had a quality people might not notice.

"I can actually stay quiet for 20 minutes or more."

During the other 40 minutes in an hour, when she is talking, one of Ramos's favorite topics involves — what else? — speed. Speed in the form of little Honda cars or Honda motorcycles.

"I've always had a Honda," she said. "I just like the cars and after a while...it just kind of grew on me."

Ramos always had an interest in cars, but they didn't become a passion for her until she moved to San Antonio and became friends with other Honda owners.

"It's just something I developed here," she said.

In addition to driving and working on real cars, Ramos builds model cars from various kits. Several of her projects sit on her desk at work, including a replica of the car she owns. Behind the models, unopened Matchbox cars hang on the wall,

completing the shrine to all things Honda.

"I frolic with them," she said with a grand, swooping hand gesture.

Ramos doesn't belong to an official car club, but she and her buddies get together and go cruising occasionally, or just sit around talking about their vehicles, though a recent accident followed by a deployment reduced her time for shop talk.

The insurance company declared Ramos's car totaled and issued her check for the damages, but she used the money to buy back the car and fix the front end. Now, she has a car she likes and no car payments. She also has plans for that extra money. She plans to purchase a motorcycle.

"Hopefully, that's my Christmas present to myself this year," Ramos said.

She wanted to buy the bike earlier with the help of money she made from her recent deployment. However, her six-month tour turned into a three-month tour and she didn't save up as much funding as she anticipated.

Instead of worrying about the length of her overseas stay, Ramos made the most of what she had and enjoyed the fast lifestyle and popular nightlife in the party area of the Persian Gulf - Bahrain.

Never one to shirk from a crowd, Ramos lived it up and took the time to make friends with Air Force and Marines alike. She said that leaders use three-day passes to Bahrain as bribes to encourage their troops to behave.

Her stay in Bahrain wasn't her first experience with a deployment, though her parents called her assignment in Panama Beach, Fla.,

a vacation to the beach.

"I end up getting the good deployments," she said.

Ramos has no regrets about joining the military and appreciates the opportunities and benefits she receives as a member of the Air Force.

"I have no complaints," she said.

Ramos had interest in crossing into the blue since high school, but wasn't happy with her ASVAB scores, so she kept putting off signing with the recruiter. Eventually she decided she needed to spread her wings so, with a little advice from her father, a retired Army colonel, she joined the Air Force and shipped off to basic training.

"I don't think I could deal with the Army's ways," she said.

Her coworkers understand the demand on her as a single parent and work with her schedule so she can care for her daughter. During deployments, Ramos brings her daughter to her parents in Arizona.

"She's the only grandchild," Ramos said. "She's the only child besides the four cats my mom has."

Ramos's parents take full advantage of their role as grandparents, using every opportunity to spoil and pamper their little love.

Ramos flew with her daughter to Arizona before her most recent deployment, but had to rent a car to return home with all her daughter's new toys and clothes.

"I had to rent an SUV from Enterprise," she said.

Undoubtedly, she spent the whole trip back driving in the fast lane.



Bowley family legacy adds to American military history

(Editor's Note: 311th Mission Support Group Commander Col. John Bowley's family tree is deeply rooted in military service that dates from the American Revolutionary War. Concluding this series, Part II chronicles the contributions made by Bowley's kin during several eras of American history.)

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Freeman Sparks Bowley's Civil War journal about his exploits as a Union Army lieutenant in command of Black soldiers is but one of many chapters in the Bowley family military saga that is being perpetuated by a career Air Force officer at Brooks City-Base.

Col. John Bowley's family legacy of service to our nation in the defense of liberty resonates in every fiber of his being. It is no act of will that he feels this way, for the 311th Mission Support Group commander embodies what he characterizes as "generational patriotism." This collective memory conveys a compelling story of the generational contributions his family has made to not only U.S. military history, but to American history as well.

"It's a blessing to be a part of it, to know there has been a family member (in each generation) who has tried to do the Lord's work as authors

of freedom," said Bowley with an unwavering conviction that underscores his Christian faith.

Willingly cast in the role of family genealogist, Bowley has traced the family lineage to Thomas Wilmer who was born in 1626 in Stratford, England. He believes the family name is derived from Le Bow County where Wilmer was born. "He (Wilmer) died in 1674 in Maryland," Bowley said of his kin who was among America's earliest immigrant settlers. There is no evidence that Wilmer served in the military, however, there exists documentation linking Bowley's family to early U.S. history.

George Ross, a prosecutor for the British Crown, became a Pennsylvania delegate to the Continental Congress in 1776. Selected Continental Congress vice president, Ross laid his life and property on the line when he became a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He subsequently became a Continental Army



Courtesy photo

311th Mission Support Group commander, Col. John Bowley's great uncle, Lt. Gen. Albert J. Bowley, is depicted here in an undated photo. He graduated from West Point in 1897.

colonel. "My (maternal) great grandmother was a Ross," says Bowley about the family's kinship with George Ross, who is directly related to Betsy Ross, maker of the first U.S. flag.

However, it has been the paternal side of the Brooks colonel's family tree that is deeply rooted to American military history. The family's military life in America began in earnest with the Civil War and later solidified when the Bowleys established a tradition of being part of West Point's "Long Gray Line." The Brooks colonel's great uncle, Lt. Gen. Albert J. Bowley, inaugurated this tradition.

The son of a Civil War Union Army captain and grandson of a Gettysburg veteran, the future Army general graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1897. He subsequently served during the Spanish-American War.

During a tour as aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Frederick Dent Grant, son of President Ulysses S. Grant, Bowley became acquainted with many prominent Americans including Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson.

After serving Philippine insurrection and World War I combat tours, he became the first Bowley assigned to a San Antonio military base when he commanded the 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Sam Houston in 1928.

His contributions to military history, however, weren't limited to the battlefield. "He was the first military judge appointed to the court martial of Billy Mitchell," said his Brooks descendant, referring to the historic 1920s case against

an Army Air Service general and aviation pioneer who had accused the War Department of negligence. So prominent was Bowley during the trial, that one of actor Gary Cooper's lines in the 1955 movie "The Court Martial of Billy Mitchell," was: "We'll never stand a chance with Bowley as judge."

While his celebrity status faded after that trial, Bowley's great uncle, nevertheless, further enhanced the family's connection to American history. "Uncle A.J. married Elsie Ball," said Bowley of the 1931 wedding that linked his family with the Balls of Virginia. The Balls' claim to fame was having produced the mother of George Washington. Bowley added, "Elsie Ball's sister married Alfred I. duPont, one of the wealthiest men in America."

A.J. Bowley's brother Freeman Wate Bowley, who is the Brooks colonel's grandfather, also pursued a military career after graduating from West Point in 1911. Two of Freeman W. Bowley's sons graduated from West Point in 1943, one of whom is the Brooks colonel's father who became an Air Force major general. A third Bowley son, William, also went to West Point. He was killed during an aircraft training accident.

Born Oct. 18, 1951, at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz., the future Brooks commander credits his father, who he considers a hero, for having a positive influence on his life. His father flew 22 combat missions in B-17s during World War II.

"He was shot down in January 1945 and crash landed in a French farm

field," recalls his son, adding, "He was shot down on his first wedding anniversary. He had arranged (before the mission) for the delivery of a dozen red roses and a Whitman chocolate sampler to my mother."

Another positive influence on Bowley's life, that occurred during his youth, involved a future American president. "Gerald Ford taught me Scripture. I was very impressed with him. He was a kind, warmhearted man who became my sponsor for Confirmation," recalls Bowley of the then congressman who taught Sunday school at the Episcopal Church that his family attended. He noted, "In 1969 he (Ford) wrote a letter on my behalf for an Academy appointment."

Bowley did not attend a military academy. However, he did experience war as a non-combatant years before enlisting in the Air Force in 1978 and subsequently earning a commission through OTS.

"In 1971, I visited my dad in Vietnam," he said, recalling, "I got to see up close a combat environment. I remember hearing enemy artillery coming in to Saigon."

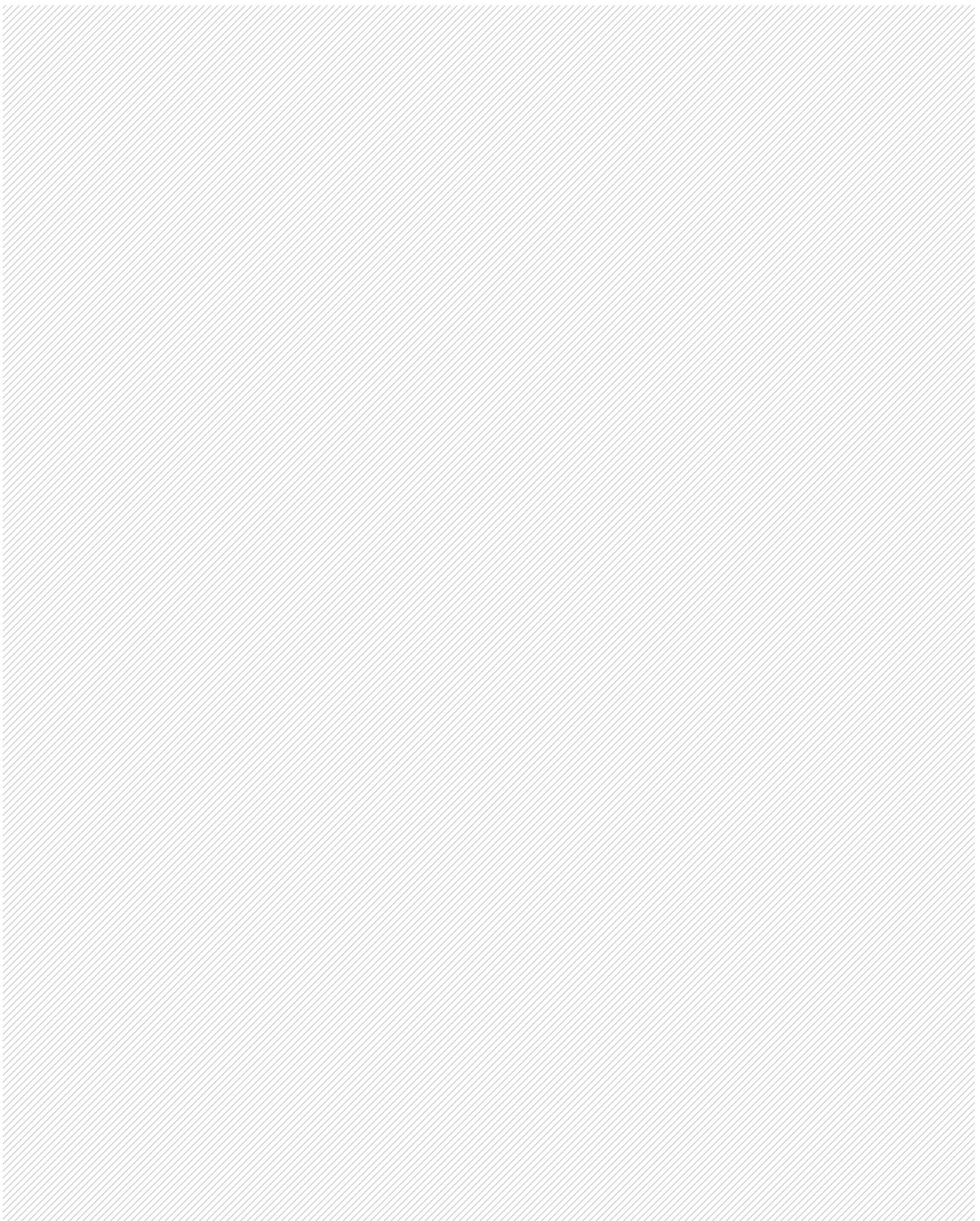
His family heritage's cumulative influence contributed to Bowley maintaining a cool head when he faced death during the Sept. 11, 2001, Pentagon attack. Bowley volunteered to help evacuate survivors.

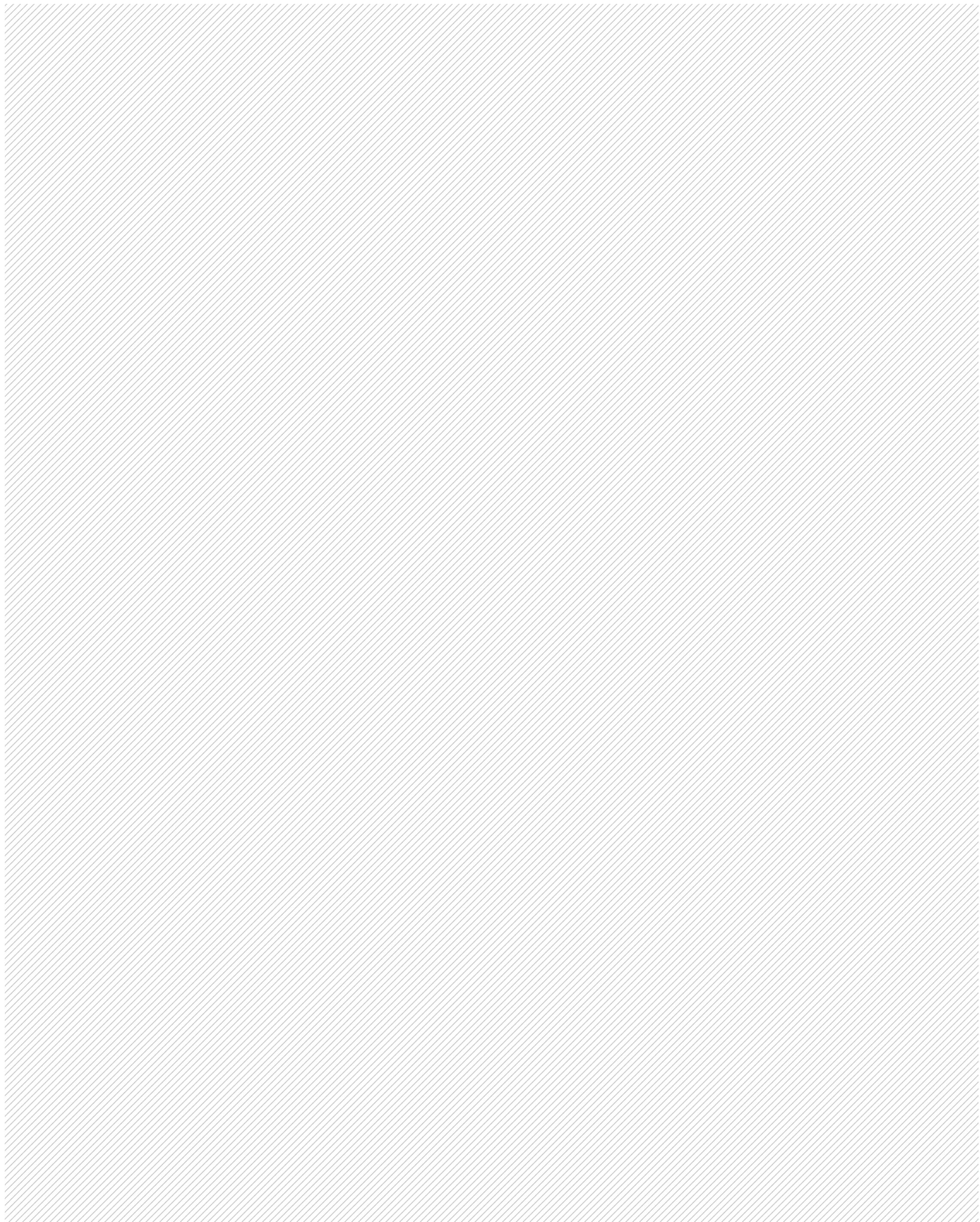
Now he hopes to pass the family legacy onto his son with the hope that a Bowley will continue the tradition of contributing to American history as a productive citizen.



Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Albert J. Bowley, 311th Mission Support Group Commander Col. John Bowley's father, resides in Melbourne, Fla. He retired from the Air Force in 1973.

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Air Force Association, Randolph host Air Force birthday ball

By 1st Lt. Cynthia Howze

Air Education and Training Command

The men and women of the Air Force will have an opportunity to celebrate the 56th Anniversary of the United States Air Force by paying tribute to the immense contributions of our service members Sept. 20 when the Alamo Chapter of the Air Force Association and the 12th Flying Training Wing play host for the 2003 Air Force Birthday Ball in Hangar 4, Randolph Air Force Base.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Hans Mark, former Secretary of the Air Force.

The theme of this year's event "Centennial of Flight" will commemorate the historic flight of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk. In addition to Dr. Mark's speech, highlights of the evening include the POW/MIA cer-

emony, recognition of the youngest and oldest members present, and musical entertainment provided by members of the Air Force Band of the West.

The birthday ball begins with a Social Hour at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 or \$15 for E-5/GS-9 and below, and covers the cost of the meal, entertainment and a commemorative coin. The menu is Sonoran Chicken and Medallions of Beef Tenderloin.

Professional portraits will be made available for an additional charge.

Dress for the occasion is mess dress/semi formal for military and "black tie" for civilians.

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets should contact Staff Sgt. Kathryn King at 536-3132.

When there's water on the road: Turn Around, Don't Drown

AUSTIN — State and federal agencies have launched a public awareness campaign to convince motorists to turn back when roadways are flooded.

The "Turn Around, Don't Drown" campaign is spearheaded by the National Weather Service and the Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety.

Each year about 15 Texans drown driving into floodwaters flowing across roadways or beneath underpasses. The nationwide fatality figure is about 127.

DEM State Coordinator Jack Colley said: "These deaths can be prevented. Just turn the car around and choose a different route. I believe if our citizens become aware of the

danger through the 'Turn Around, Don't Drown' campaign, they will avoid driving into floodwaters."

"We are asking newspapers, radio stations and TV stations to help make our citizens aware of these dangers," Colley said.

"Even one of these preventable deaths is too many, and the media can help us get this message out," he said.

It takes as little as two feet of water to float a car, and water across a road may be rising much more rapidly than the driver realizes. Drivers can't tell how deep flood water actually is because floodwaters wash out roadways. A missing section of road, even a missing bridge, will not be visible.



Letters, small packages shipped to servicemembers move quicker

By K.L. Vantran

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The U.S. Postal Service and the Military Postal Service Agency process about two million pounds of mail a week for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of those, some items make it to the recipient faster than others, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brian Lomax, agency chief of plans and policy.

Depending on where it originates, a letter or package spends "a couple of days" in the civilian system before it reaches either San Francisco or New York City, Lomax said. Then it travels another 16 to 19 hours by plane before landing in Kuwait or Bahrain. From there, it is picked up and delivered by motor vehicle.

Once in theater, a letter takes seven to 14 days to reach the servicemember, while a package usually takes 14 to 24 days, he said. Packages make up 90 percent of the mail.

"The mail is getting to the troops," he said. "The troops are happy. Our intent is to continue to make improvements and exceed their expectations."

Using automated mail-scanning equipment and increasing the number of people working at mail facilities are two improvements that have sped up mail delivery, Lomax said.

People who mail letters and packages also can help, he said.

"The size of the package (is) an important (factor)," Lomax said. "Large packages take up a lot more room. If there's a choice between taking one large box or a lot of smaller boxes and

Call 1-800-ASK-USPS or visit the postal service Web site at: www.usps.com for shipping information.

letters, the large box will stay (at the mail facility). The ideal size is a shoebox. It's also important to correctly address the package."

Some items cannot be mailed. They include: aerosol cans, alcoholic beverages, ammunition, fireworks, flammable or explosive materials and illegal or infectious substances.

For more information, call 1-800-ASK-USPS or visit the postal service Web site at: www.usps.com.

Though it is not one of the restricted items, Lomax recommended against sending chocolate.

"Chocolate and 140 degrees (make) chocolate paste," he said.

Cookies and sunflower seeds seem to travel well, he said, and placing cookies in a coffee can helps to protect them.

Heat also takes a toll on the tape commonly used in packaging, Lomax said. The postal service officials recommend using clear or brown packaging tape, reinforced packing tape or paper tape. Cord, string and twine should not be used, because they can get caught in the mail-processing equipment.

Servicemembers love to get mail, Lomax said.

"When I was out at sea, it was always a joy to get a letter from home or a copy of a report card," Lomax said. "It's an exhilarating feeling: I'm out here doing my job, and they haven't forgotten who I am."

Promotion requirements are members responsibility

Enlisted members eligible to test for promotion should be aware of the Weighted Airman Promotion System study reference distribution policy and procedures. Your unit WAPS monitor and the Military Personnel Flight, Career Enhancement Element, are available points of contact. Ultimately, the responsibility for obtaining the required study references still rests with the eligible member.

Eligible members are responsible for knowing when they are eligible for promotion, personally reviewing the WAPS catalog to identify reference requirements, ensuring they obtain and study the correct references, promptly contacting their unit WAPS monitor, before the start of the testing cycle, when courses are not received or are incorrect and maintaining the issued material until it is no

longer needed.

It is the members' responsibility to ensure they receive 60 days' study time and are prepared by the first day of the test cycle.

The Personnel Data System automatically orders WAPS CDCs for members who meet the basic eligibility criteria for promotion. Basic eligibility criteria consider time-in-grade, projected separation and retirement dates, and High Year of Tenure. Members who become eligible after the ordering process has begun must request the courses through their unit WAPS monitors.

For more information regarding the Weighted Airman Promotion System at Brooks, contact your unit WAPS monitor or the Military Personnel Flight Career Enhancement Element at 536-6978.

from Oct. 1 to Nov. 23, is expanded to include members of the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard, as well as non-appropriated fund civilians and students.

The Air Force Climate Survey 2003 will be easily accessible and user-friendly. Comments won't be edited or filtered and will provide valuable feedback, including ideas from members.

Organizers said the Air Force Climate Survey 2003 will not be a quality of life survey because it will not solicit information or feedback about base facilities and functions, pay or benefits. The survey will also not ask about racial or sexual harassment or discrimination, or certain health practices of members or their families.

The results of the survey will be released in February 2004. Visit the Web site for more information on the survey at: <https://afclimatesurvey.af.mil>.

Air Force to survey reservists about workplace

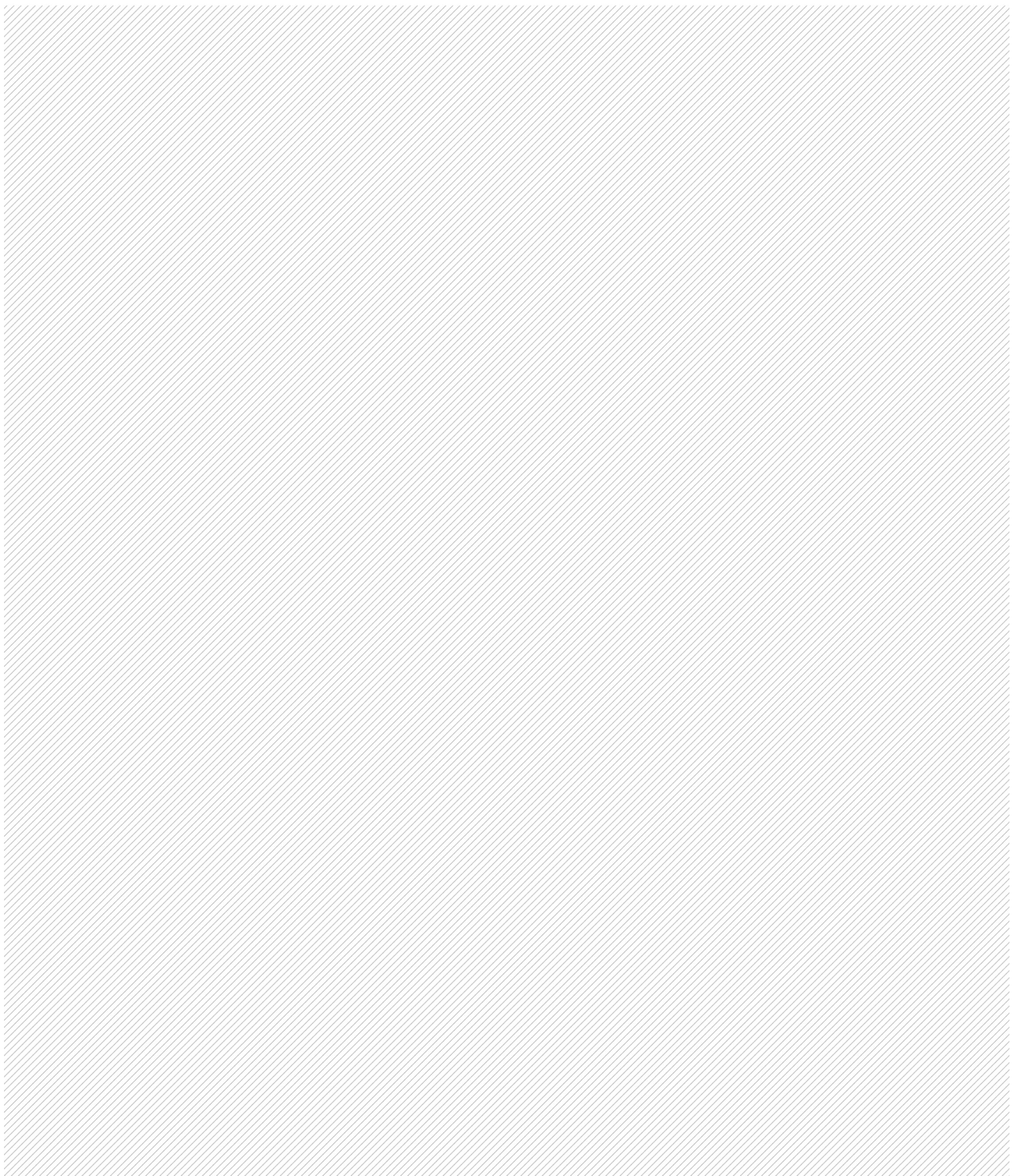
By 2nd Lt. Lance Patterson

Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — This year, for the first time, the Air Force Climate Survey will include all Air Force reservists.

Feedback from last year's study, formerly the Air Force Chief of Staff Survey, prompted the Air Force to involve a larger audience in the survey, which will seek factors affecting the day-to-day mission, leadership and availability of resources. Results of the online survey will serve as the baseline for the Total Force.

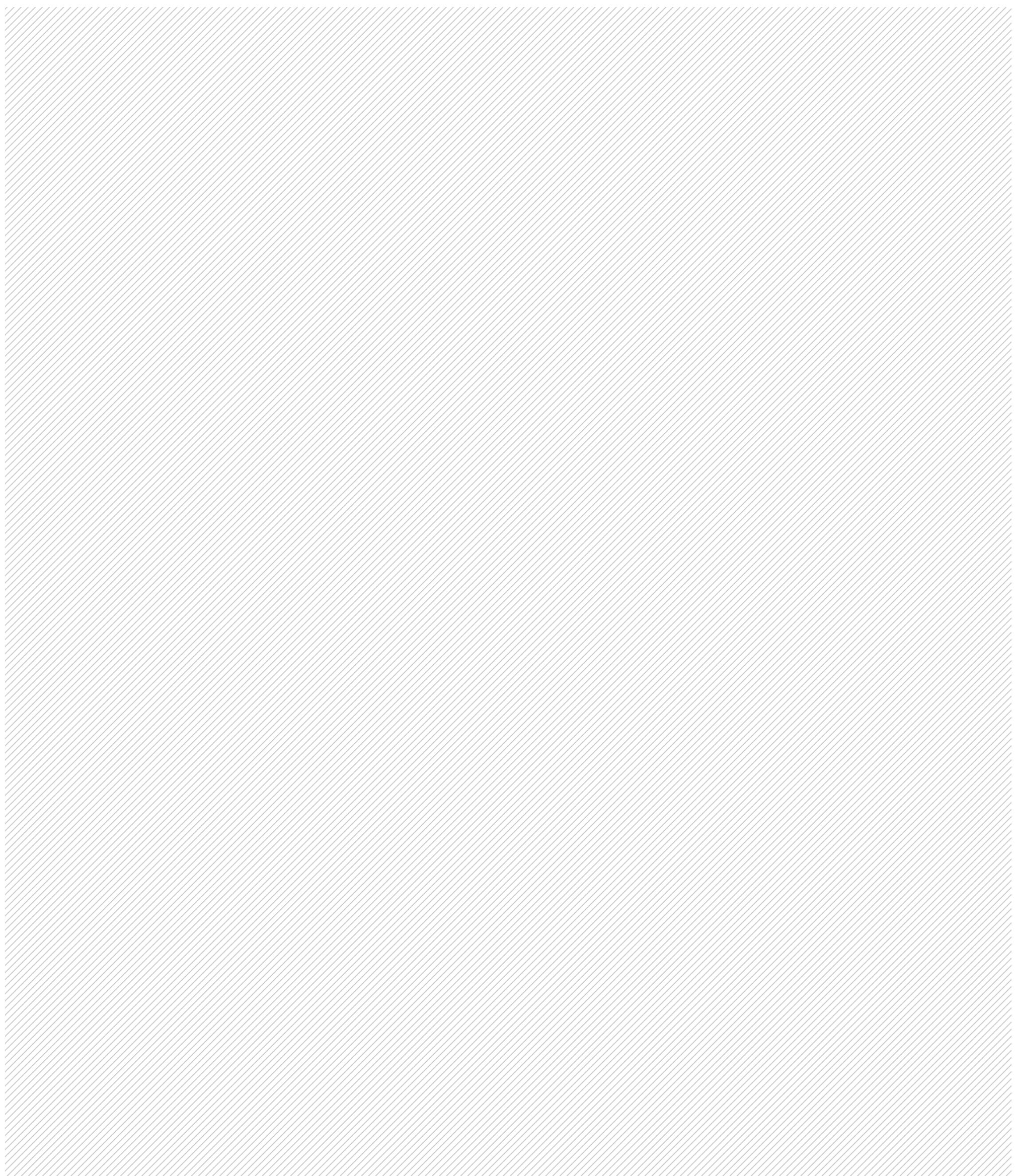
Past surveys were limited to the active-duty Air Force and DoD civilians. This year's survey, which runs





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Brooks martial artist a Bruce Lee 'disciple'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

(Editor's note: The growing popularity of martial arts in America is reflected in the Brooks community whose members are adherents to a variety of disciplines that have contributed to their physical and mental fitness, well being and general health. Part I of this series focuses on a "disciple" of perhaps the greatest legend in martial arts history.)

When Britt Barkley saw for the first time the 1973 martial arts film classic "Enter The Dragon" he knew he wanted to be like Bruce Lee. Yet despite the fact he and this legend had the same body size, the difference between them was similar to that of lightning and the lightning bug.

"Bruce Lee created his own style called Jeet Kune Do, an electric style that combined all of the Asian martial arts as well as elements of boxing, wrestling and fencing," explains Barkley, who first participated in martial arts in 1975 at age 14 in his hometown of Augusta, Ga. Barkley, who admits not being good at team sports, was immediately attracted to the martial arts techniques he frequently observed in the movies.

"My dad worked in the movie theater as a projectionist. I went to work with him and watched films all day, mostly on weekends," he recalls, noting that his favorite movies starred Bruce Lee and Chuck Norris.

"When I saw this little guy (Lee) do those amazing things, I said to myself 'I can do that.' Barkley studied martial arts on his own for three years. "I initially trained myself with instruction from books and magazines. I practiced basic moves and techniques."

Realizing that he needed formal training to progress in the sport, he mowed lawns to earn money for martial arts lessons.

"When I went to my first class, I could do all the jumps and aerial kicks. I had practiced what I saw in the films. I like the flashy stuff," he says.

Known today for his jumping ability, Barkley has mastered the high flying kicks and other techniques required of a third degree black belt in Taekwondo, the Korean form of Karate.



Courtesy photos

Britt Barkley, assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks, demonstrates a high-flying kick developed in Taekwondo. Barkley earned his Taekwondo black belt in 1986 after 11 years of training. To advance through the ten levels from white to black belt, participants must demonstrate the ability to perform specific forms or floor exercises. The moves must eventually be demonstrated against an opponent and then multiple attackers.

Richard Holland, his first martial arts instructor, was pleasantly surprised by the then 14-year-old Barkley's spin kicks. Holland saw in the youngster not only a natural ability, but an all-consuming desire to learn more about the sport.

To advance through the ten levels from white to black belt, Barkley explains, participants must demonstrate an ability to perform specific forms or floor exercises.

"A certain pattern of movements must be performed showing balance, speed, focus and agility," he said.

These movements must eventually be demonstrated against an opponent and then multiple attackers. Progress is also measured by how well these movements are incorporated with such maneuvers as spinning and aerial kicks.

Barkley learned early in his training that stretching routines must be performed to achieve more flexibility.

"Aerobic activity helps with spinning for endurance, while weight training builds power for kicks and punches," he said.

Earning a colored belt in Taekwondo is an achievement, but maintaining proficiency and advancing to the next level can be even more challenging.

Barkley discovered he had only scratched the surface of the sport after meeting In Hui Won, a two-time world champion.

After enlisting in the Air Force in 1982, Barkley resumed his martial arts training at Won's Taekwondo Academy in Oklahoma while stationed at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

"He made me start over again at white belt. I had been out of training for two years. I had to prove myself," admits Barkley, noting, "The first time he tested me, he promoted me to the fifth level."

Barkley eventually earned a black belt in 1986 after 11 years of training at four different schools.

"To be able to do the things that earn the black belt, you have to practice," he said, explaining, "The Asian philosophy for all belts leading to black is just preparation. Once you earn the black belt, now you're really ready to learn."

Barkley's journey to black belt included participation in several tournaments, beginning with his first competition in 1976 at Fort Gordon, Ga.

"I entered the junior division. I fought three matches," he recalls about his eye-opening experience.

"Points are awarded for striking an opponent in legal target areas with a hand or foot. Kicks to the groin and back are illegal. It takes three times the energy to kick as it does to punch," he said.

He had no problem with endurance, for the match duration featured two 90-second rounds separated by a 15-second rest. However, he was initially intimidated by performing in front of a crowd against an unknown opponent.

"It took a long time before I won a tournament. My tourney career is very silver, just like my hair. I placed second a lot," he confessed.

He earned one of his many silver medals in 1997 at the Amateur Athletic Union-sanctioned National Taekwondo Championship at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

"I lost (the gold medal) in forms by one-tenth of a point to the four-time defending champ."

While he still participates in tournaments, this U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine captain enjoys promoting the sport through demonstrations. Earlier this year, he conducted his first martial arts demonstration at Brooks to help commemorate Asian Pacific Heritage Month. Supported by demonstration partners Pete Funari and his son Anthony, the trio showcased kicking and punching drills that included breaking one-inch thick pine boards.

"Martial arts builds confidence, discipline and self-esteem. It's very family oriented. One of my goals is to train Haley," he said of his pre-school daughter who may equate dad with the likes of Spiderman or Daredevil for his martial arts-inspired aerial antics.



Britt Barkley poses in a typical Taekwondo stance.



Gonzales aces #11 hole to make base golf history

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A hole in one is a rare feat in golf. It's even rarer when accomplished twice in the same year on the same course. Rudy Gonzales earned a place in Brooks sports history Aug. 28 when he joined 311th Mission Support Group's Services teammate Bob Hager as the only players in base history to ace a hole in the same year.

"I've never had a hole in one before," said San Antonio native Gonzales, who admits, "The closest I came to one was five years ago on the same hole, but the ball hit off the back of the cup and rolled six inches."

None in the foursome who witnessed the feat realized that Gonzales had aced the Par 3, 184 -yard hole.

"The ball was leaning on the flag pole," said witness Mike Franklin, referring to its precarious position, appearing to have been wedged between the pole and the interior of the cup. As they approached the green, the breeze blew just enough to shake the pole and drop the ball into the cup.

"I have never seen a hole in one before. At first, I was real happy for Rudy. Then I thought that it should have been my hole," joked Franklin,



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Rudy Gonzales displays the plaque he was presented for his historic hole in one, scored on the 11th hole at the Brooks Golf Course Aug. 28.

who started playing the Brooks course just a few months ago after he and his wife, Lt. Col. Laura Trent, arrived at Brooks.

Franklin was so impressed by the feat that he had the scorecard and historic ball mounted on a plaque that he presented to Gonzales.

The plaque, on display at the golf clubhouse, features the inscription "You da' man."

Years ago Budweiser Beer rewarded golfers who fired holes in one at the Brooks course.

"You'd get a putter mounted in a case," recalls Hager, the 1991 Brooks

golf champion who has fired a record six holes in one at the Brooks course. The last one occurred earlier this year during a Northside Catholic Golf Association tournament. Hager sank his latest hole in one on the Par 3, 201-yard #7 hole, considered the toughest hole in the city.

"It takes some skill to hit the ball in the direction of the pin, but for it to go in (on one stroke) is pure luck," admits Hager, whose Brooks course record includes two holes in one on #2 and #11 hole and one each on #16 and #7.

Gonzales, an Air Force retiree who works at the Brooks golf course as a clubhouse cashier, has played golf here since the course opened in 1970. In 35 years of playing golf, Gonzales has never seen anyone hit a hole in one.

Most golfers have never done it. Then there are the rarest of all players, like Korean War veteran Howell Parker, who volunteers as a Brooks course marshall.

"I had two holes in one in 1992," Parker said, noting that he accomplished the feat at Hondo Municipal Golf Course and Stark Park in Seguin.

"It's usually once-in-a-lifetime," said Parker who played 32 years of golf before accomplishing the feat twice in the same year. Since then, he hasn't come close to doing it again.

"I never saw either of mine go in," he recalls, adding, "You aim at the pin and yell (afterwards) for it (ball) to go in. It's rare, and it's (usually) an accident."

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Sportsguards play important role in total mouth protection

By Erla Naumann

311th Medical Squadron

Individual and team sports are activities that benefit everyone — adults and children have fun, keep fit, and learn valuable team sportsmanship. But they can be hazardous, and everyone is aware of the need for kneepads, helmets, and shin-guards to protect vulnerable body parts. But what about protecting your mouth? Mouthguards play an important role in protecting not only the teeth, but also the tongue, lips and jaws.

In most organized contact sports, use of a mouthguard is mandatory, but it is also important for casual play, cycling, any ball sport, even weightlifting.

Custom-made mouthguards are available to active-duty members through the Brooks Dental Clinic. These are made by first taking an impression of the dental arch and then making a plaster cast on which the custom-molded guard is formed. This is more comfortable than the "boil 'n bite" guards, which are available at athletic supply stores, but these, also, provide good protection at a much lower cost.

If your family is enrolled in the Dependents Dental Plan, United Concordia, it pays a percentage of the cost for athletic guards for children 13 years and older, once a year. For more information, please call the Dental Clinic at 536-1846.



Final women's base varsity hoop team tryouts slated for Sept. 22

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Final tryouts for the Brooks women's varsity basketball team will be held at 3 p.m., Sept. 22, at the base fitness center. The tryout is open to all Brooks women who are at least 18 years old.

An initial tryout Aug. 27 was unsuccessful in attracting the talent needed to field a competitive team for the 2003-2004 season which begins in October, explained Brooks women's varsity team head coach Hosea Talbert.

Talbert, a Brooks fitness center specialist who also coaches the men's varsity basketball team, said he plans to enter the women's squad in the Southwest Military Basketball League.

"I already have entered the Brooks men's team in the league," he said.

The league is composed of 12 teams divided into four divisions.

Brooks begins play Oct. 4-5 in the Eastern Division which also includes Dyess, Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases. The league features both Air Force and Army varsity teams. The regular season ends in March, followed by a post-season tournament March 18-22.

Talbert, who built successful women's and men's varsity basketball programs in Europe, believes participation in a regular season against military teams will better prepare the Brooks hoop squads for the Air Force Material Command tournament.

While Brooks has never won an AFMC basketball title, the Brooks men's varsity squad was tourney runners-up in 2002. The women's team did not participate in the AFMC tournament last year.

Women needing additional information about the open tryout can call Talbert at 536-2188 or 536-5968.

Reserve players needed for Brooks flag football

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Reserve players are needed to fill a player's pool for the 2003 Brooks intramural flag football season that started Sept. 4.

While only four teams are competing in this short gridiron season, projected player TDYs and work commitments will provide opportunities for others to participate, said fitness center specialist Pablo Segura.

"The teams are full, but players can still sign up," said Segura, who explained that the seven-member teams can be augmented by anyone who works at Brooks.

Active duty military men and women, civilians and contractors are eligible to participate.

Teams competing this year include defending league and base champion 68th Information Operations Squadron, the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, the combined 311th Human Systems Program Office and Contracting

Office, and the 311th Medical Squadron.

Season games are played at the fitness center field Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. The season ends Sept. 22.

"Every team will advance to the single elimination tournament," said Segura, referring to the base championship playoffs tentatively scheduled for the last week of September.

In past years when there were more teams, only the top four teams with the best league records advanced to the post-season tourney. Segura said teams competing this year will be seeded for the Brooks championship tournament based on their regular season records.

In 2002, the 68th IOS was undefeated as league champs. As the post season tournament's number one seed, they won the base crown with a thrilling 19-18 come-from-behind victory over the two-time defending base champion Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis.

To register for the player pool, call the fitness center at 536-2188.